



For Immediate Release:

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**SUTTER STREET MANUFACTURING TO CREATE
NEW JOBS IN CATAWBA COUNTY**

HICKORY –Sutter Street Manufacturing, a wholly owned subsidiary of national home furnishings retailer Williams-Sonoma, Inc., has selected Hickory for a project with the potential to create 820 jobs over the next five years with an investment approximating \$2.7 million. The new facility will include product development, regional distribution and upholstered manufacturing to support their brands. A state Job Development Investment Grant helped make the project possible.

Sutter Street Manufacturing is a California corporation formed in 2007. Parent company Williams-Sonoma, Inc., with approximately 39,000 workers, is a nationwide specialty retailer of products for the home. These products – sold by Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, PB teen, West Elm and Williams-Sonoma Home – are marketed through 600 locations in 44 states, Washington, D.C. and Canada, seven mail order catalogues and six e-commerce websites.

Sutter Street Manufacturing, which currently employs 50 people in Hickory, will supply Williams-Sonoma, Inc.'s brands with upholstered furniture. While wages for the 820 new employees will vary by responsibilities and job function, the average yearly salary will be a little more than \$42,000 not including benefits. This is significantly higher than the Catawba County average of \$33,332.

Howard Lester, Williams-Sonoma, Inc.'s chairman and CEO, said the company chose Hickory for this project after conducting a comprehensive analysis of potential sites. "We selected the Catawba County area based on its highly skilled workforce and North Carolina's commitment to supporting the furniture industry and related jobs in the state," Lester said. "We are excited about the opportunity to make an investment in North Carolina and Catawba County in an effort to protect the high level of furniture-related skills that exist here."

"Hickory is synonymous with fine furniture and high quality and that is why it is exhilarating to be a part of one of the largest new projects that Hickory and Catawba County have been a part of in a long time," said Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright. "Our skilled craftsmen are known all across the world for their attention to detail and perfection, and that is one of the reasons why Sutter Street Manufacturing and Williams-Sonoma, Inc. chose Hickory."

“Seeing a company such as Sutter Street bring 820 new jobs to Hickory and Catawba County in the next five years ... now that is exciting,” added Wright. “We have a workforce trained in this profession and many people throughout the area that have gone back to school and have new skills that will benefit Sutter Street as well.”

“Sutter Street Manufacturing is the right project at the right time This economic development project ties together our past and our future and the focus is on heritage and quality.”

“We are extremely pleased with Sutter Street Manufacturing’s decision to locate its new manufacturing, distribution and development facility in the City of Hickory,” said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. “With our long tradition in the home furnishings sector, we are very confident Catawba County will be a great home for this subsidiary of Williams-Sonoma. The creation of new, top quality and higher paying jobs has been one of highest priorities for the Board of Commissioners over the last several years. Sutter Street Manufacturing brings all of those criteria to our county in one great new partnership. We also have a wonderful opportunity to bring new employment to many skilled workers living in our county. We are very grateful to Sutter Street Manufacturing and Williams-Sonoma, Inc. for their decision to locate in Catawba County, and look forward to building a productive and successful new relationship.”

Inquires about employment opportunities with Sutter Street Manufacturing should be sent to HRSutterStreet@wsgc.com .

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